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14 AUG. 1902

THE JOURNAL OF INDIAN ART AND INDUSTRY

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

Vol. IX.

JULY, 1902] [No. 79.

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BY THE LATE EDMUND W. SMITH, M.R.A.S.

(*Archæologist to the Government of India, N.W. Provinces*).

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Tiled Panels. Tiling.

Colour Decoration upon Ceiling.

Detail of Tiled Frieze.

Detail of Tiled Cornice.

Colour Decoration in crown of Dome.

Colour Decoration upon soffit of Dome.

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BY IVIE HAMILTON.

RAM SINGH DEL. MAYO SCHOOL OF ART LAHORE

Published under the patronage of the Government of India.

PHOTOGRAPHED, PRINTED, AND PUBLISHED BY W. GRIGGS, ELM HOUSE, HANOVER STREET, PECKHAM, LONDON.

LONDON AGENT—BERNARD QUARITCH, 15, PICCADILLY, W.

IRON WORK.

From Objects and Drawings in the South Kensington Museum.

In 28 Parts, price 28/-.

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W. GRIGGS,
HANOVER STREET, PECKHAM,
LONDON, S.E.

The Journal of Indian Art and Industry.

MOGHUL COLOUR DECORATION OF AGRA.

ILLUSTRATED BY EXAMPLES FROM THE CHINI-KA-RAUZA, ITIMAD-UD-DAULAH'S TOMB, AND THE KANCH MAHAL.

BY THE LATE EDMUND W. SMITH, ESQ., M.R.A.S.,
Archæologist to Government of India, N.W. Provinces.

As noted in the preceding number of this journal (in the description of Plates 133 and 134), the patterns on the panels depicted on Plates 135 and 136 are more realistic than many of those portrayed on the other panels, the leaves and flowers being arranged in graceful curves, so as to leave no gaping spaces so detrimental to good design. Plates 137 to 141 inclusive represent other panels ornamenting the north façade; whilst those numbered from 142 to 147 show some of the panels on the west or river front.

The panels shown on Plate 142 are immediately over the archway shown on Plate 146, above a doorway on the ground floor leading into a room on the north-west angle of the tomb. In design the panels given on Plate 145 are entirely different to those met with in other parts of the building. In both instances yellow vases upon a green background, edged with an engrailed border in dark crimson, take the place of the conventional flowers found upon the other panels, and in both cases an orange field has been employed round the upper part of the panels. In design the vases are unlike. One is broad and short-necked, whilst the other is like the *lotâ* or metal pot used by the natives of India for drinking purposes. In both cases the vases are filled with flowers. The short-necked vase stands in a white dish with yellow stripes. The lip of the jar is crimson, and round the neck and shoulder is a collar of white leaves studded with small flowers in blue and red, whilst the body of the vessel is ornamented with blue leaves. On each side of the vase is a double-handled water bottle (*surahi*) in light vermilion striped with white bands.

The *lotâ*-shaped vase on the other panel shown on Plate 145 is of an orange colour, with a white neck and a horizontal girdle of blue quatrefoils round the centre of the body.

Similar vases and bottles are very commonly used in the ornamentation found on Jahângîr's and Shâh Jahân's buildings, and may be seen on Itimâd-ud-daulah's tomb and many other buildings in Agra, but they are seldom seen on Moghul structures erected prior to Jahângîr's time. They are found on domestic buildings as well as upon tombs.

The great open arched entrance or vestibule spoken of before, in the centre of each façade, are ceiled by half domes (see Plate 117*a* in preceding number of this journal) which spring from the top of a deep cornice of a concave section.

The ground of the cornice (Plate 147) is divided into a series of long panels with scalloped or foiled ends, in orange-coloured tiles, enclosed by a narrow edging in blue and white, surrounded by a border of green inlaid with undulating floral scrolls in various colours. Flowers in blue, white and green, connected with tendrils spirally arranged, are let into the orange field of the panel, whilst in places leaves are curled round and turned over the blue and white edgings enclosing the panel.

The roofs of the arched entrances or vestibules are panelled and groined, and enriched with paintings all now more or less in a state of decay. In some instances the colours have disappeared altogether, and where this is so they have purposely been omitted and left out of the illustration (Plate 148).

The large arched vestibule in the centre of the four façades, spoken of in the last paragraph, lead into an octagonal cenotaph chamber in the centre of the tomb, 28 feet in diameter. The chamber, 37 feet in height, is domed over and is surmounted by a cupola standing on a sixteen-sided base. The exterior of the cupola was coated with blue and yellow tiles laid in diagonal bands. Round the upper side of the base of the cupola is a belt of variegated tiling, and beneath it is a string moulding, under which is a frieze band in the same material (see Plates 149 and 150). The designs employed are very much like some of those found in Sindh enamelled tiles, and it is not improbable that Sindh potters were employed on the decoration of the building.

But to return to the cenotaph chamber, four of the octagonal sides of the room are pierced by square doorways leading to the vestibules on the north, south, east and west sides of the tomb, whilst the remaining four are turned into recesses of pentagonal shape covered by half domes. The walls and ceilings of the chamber are coated in stucco, and are enriched from top to bottom with paintings of floral and other patterns.

In the crown of the dome is an exquisite medallion or centre-piece, the field of which is painted blue, and worked upon it are panels of flowers, chiefly in red and white, surrounded by narrow gold borders and garlands of white flowers and grapes. Surrounding the blue field is a broad star-shaped border in gold, of a concave section, enriched with floral ornamentation (Plate 151).

Below the medallion is the ceiling, corbelled out into five concentric honeycombed rings, beautified with flowers in gold and various colours (Plate 152); and from thence downwards to the springing of the dome it is richly groined and painted with conventional flowers, &c. (Plates 153 and 154).

(*To be continued*).

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AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE NORTH FAÇADE, EAST SIDE.
Marked H, H, on the Elevation.

RAM PRATAP I. DEL.

Edmd. W. Smith
Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: Chini-ka-Rauza. Tiled Panels on the North Façade, East Side.

Marked K, K, on the Elevation,

Edmd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE NORTH FAÇADE, EAST SIDE.

Marked J, J, on the Elevation,

RAM SINGH, DEL.

SCALE OF FEET

Edwd. W. Smith
Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : CHÍNÍ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE NORTH FAÇADE, EAST SIDE.

Marked F, F, on the Elevation,

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE NORTH FAÇADE, EAST SIDE.
Marked G, G, on the Elevation,

RAM SINGH & FAZL-UD-DIN I. DEL.

Inches 12 9 6 3 0 1 2 3 Feet

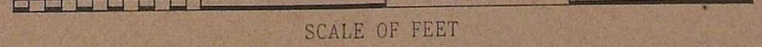
SCALE OF FEET

Edmd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE NORTH FAÇADE, EAST SIDE.

Marked C, C, on the Elevation,



SCALE OF FEET

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÍNÍ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE NORTH FAÇADE, EAST SIDE.

Panels marked D, D, on the Elevation,

FAZL-UD-DIN II. DEL.

Inches 12 9 6 3 1 2 3 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Edmund W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE WEST FAÇADE, NORTH END.

[Over the ground floor doorway].

SOHUN LAL, DEL.

Inches 12 9 6 3 ... 2 3 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Edmd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE WEST FAÇADE, NORTH END.

[On the side of the Northern entrance].

Edwd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE WEST FAÇADE, NORTH END.

[Below the first floor window]

FAZL-UD-DIN IL DEL.

Inches 12 9 6 3 1 2 3 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Edmd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N W.P.

AGRA: CHÍNÍ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE WEST FAÇADE, NORTH END.

[On the sides of the first floor windows—below the cornice].

RAM PRATAP I. & SOHUN LAL, DEL.

Inches 12 9 6 3 1 2 3 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. TILED PANELS ON THE WEST FAÇADE, NORTH END.

[Archway over the ground floor doorway].

SOHUN LAL, DEL.

Inches 12 6 0 1 2 3 Feet

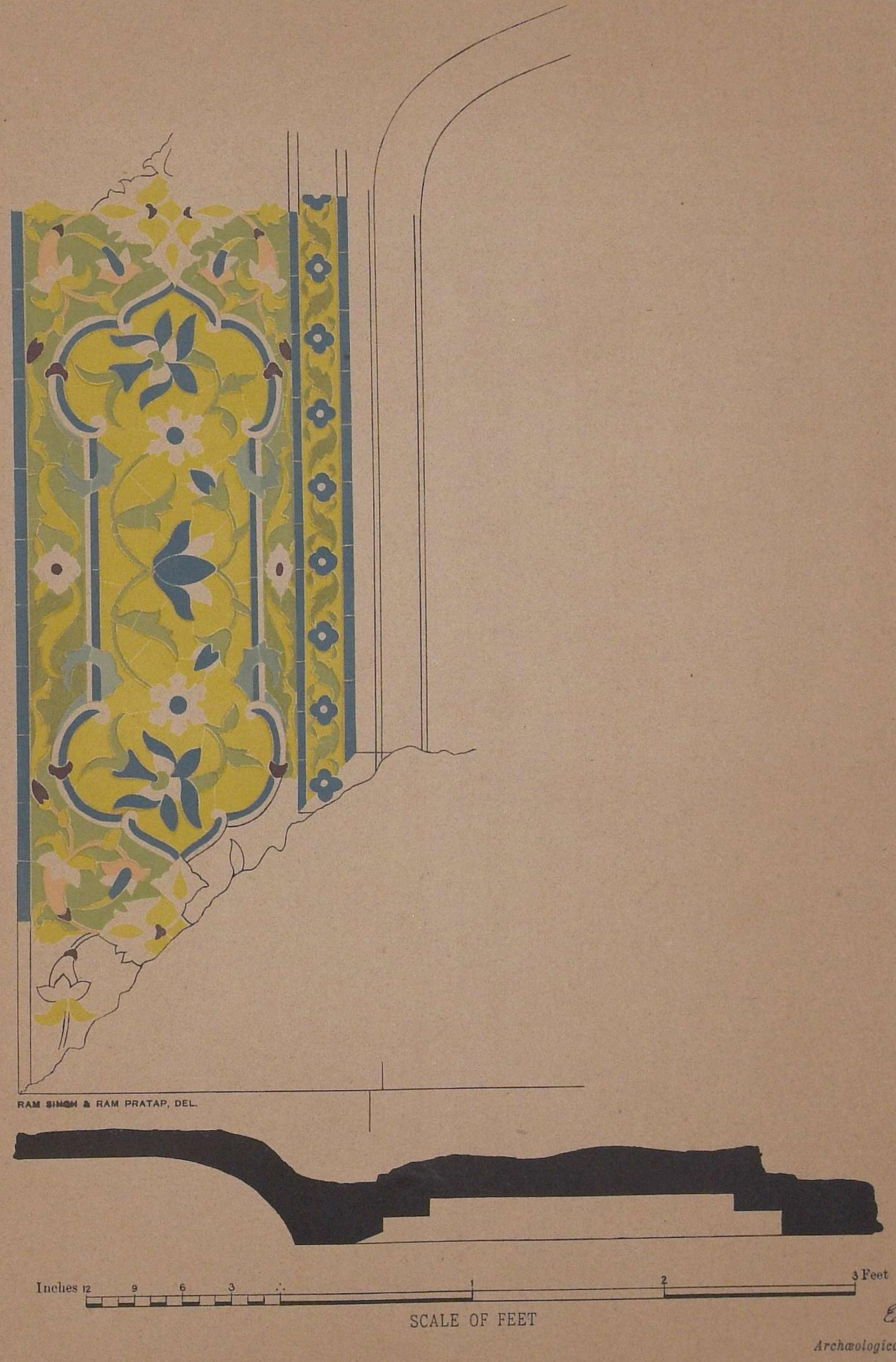
SCALE OF FEET

Edmd W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. THE WESTERN VESTIBULE.

Tiling upon the cornice and intrados of the main archway.



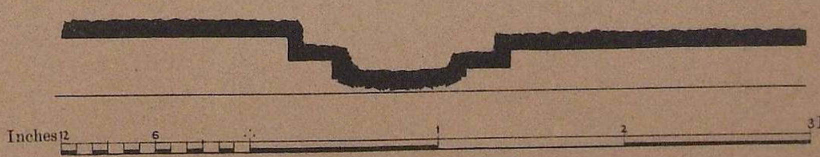
Edmund W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : CHÍNÍ-KA-RAUZA. THE WESTERN VESTIBULE

Colour Decoration upon the ceiling.

SOHUN LAL, DEL.



SCALE OF FEET

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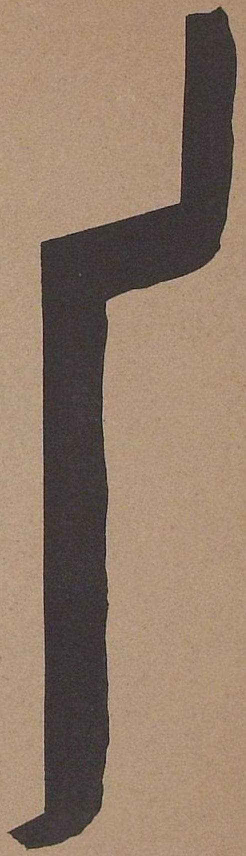
Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : CHÍNÍ-KA-RAUZA. DETAIL OF TILED FRIEZE ROUND THE BASE OF THE DOME.

RAM PRATAP I. DEL.



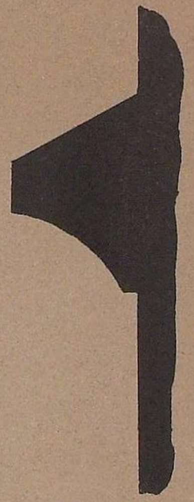
Section

SCALE OF FEET

Edwd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: Chînî-ka-Rauza. Detail of Tiled Cornice round the Base of the Dome.



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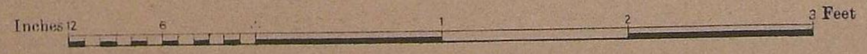

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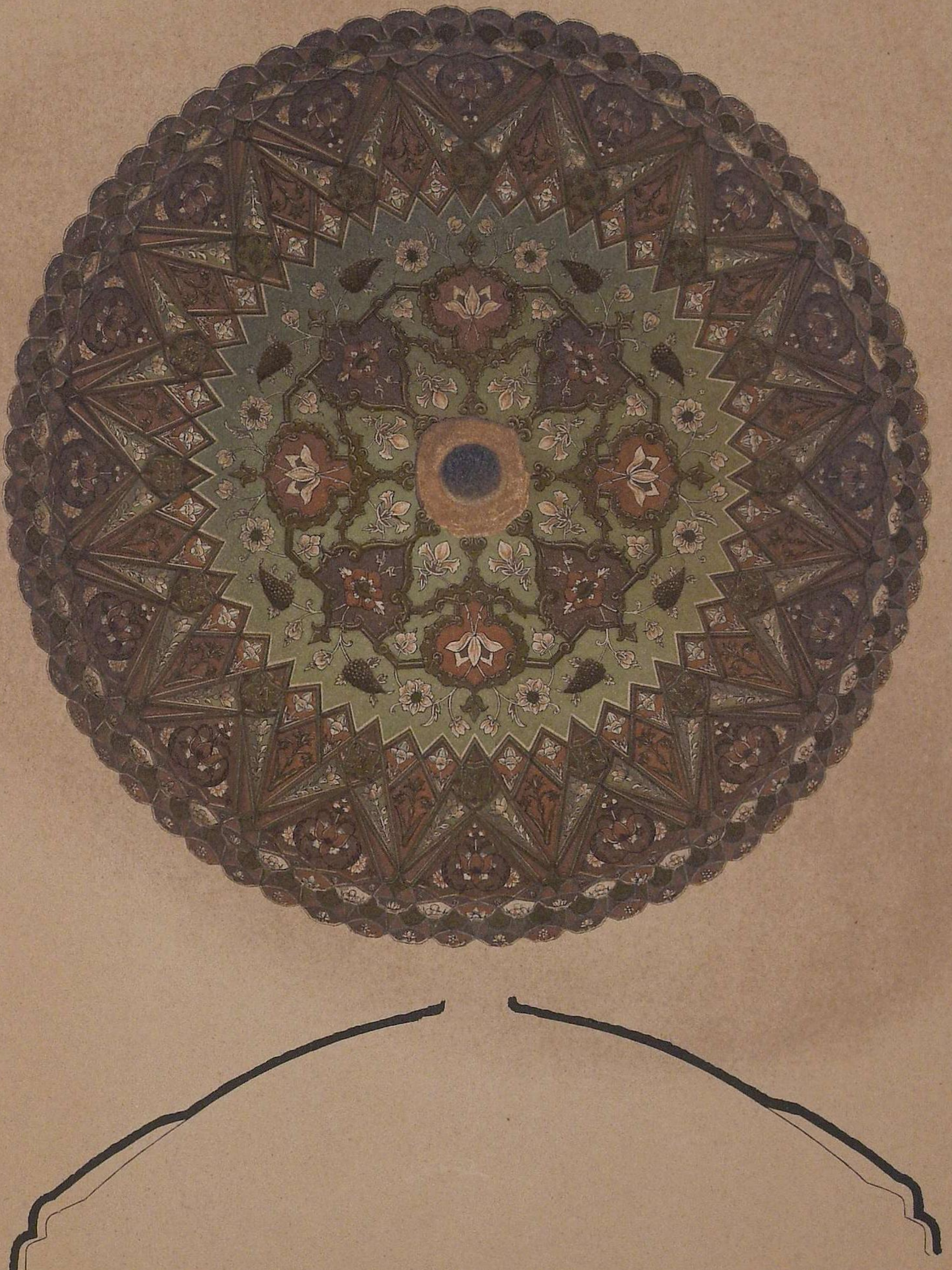
Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. COLOURED DECORATION UPON THE MEDALLION IN THE CROWN OF THE DOME.



BHAIRAV BAKHSH, DEL.

Section

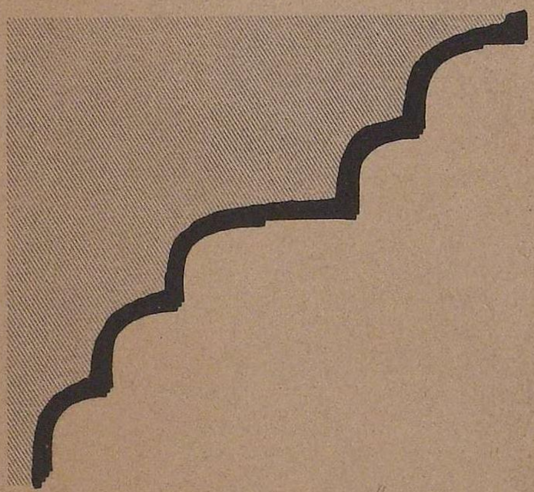
Edwd. W. Smith

Inches 12 · 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA: CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. COLOURED DECORATION UPON THE SOFFIT OF THE DOME.



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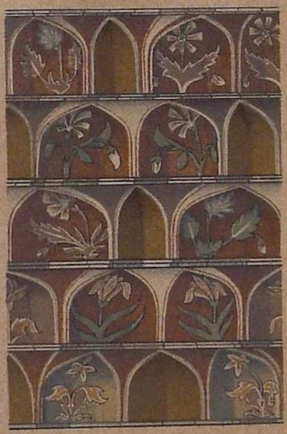
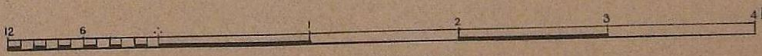


Elevation

BHAIRAV BAKSH, DEL.



SCALE OF FEET

Edmd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : CHÎNÎ-KA-RAUZA. DETAIL OF COLOUR DECORATION UPON THE SOFFIT OF THE DOME (SPRINGING).

BHAIRAV BAKHSH, DEL.

Inches 12 6 0 1 2 3 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Edmd. W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

AGRA : Chīnī-ka-Rauza. Colour Decoration upon the Soffit of the Dome (springing).

Bhairav Bakhsh & Ram Singh, Del.

Inches 12 9 6 3 1 2 3 Feet

SCALE OF FEET

Edmund W. Smith

Archæological Surveyor N.W.P.

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